

AUXILIARY GUIDE NUMBER FOR APRIL

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

“Experience has shown that those who remember the Lord’s Sabbath day and keep it holy are in harmony with the spirit of the Gospel. The keeping of this law will affect our lives for good, and the disobeying of it will affect our lives for evil.”—JOHN WELLS.

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A MESSAGE FOR ALL M. I. A. WORKERS

ELDER JOSEPH F. SMITH

AND whose having faith you shall confirm in my church, by the laying on of the hands, and I will bestow the gift of the Holy Ghost upon them. (Doctrine and Covenants 33: 15.)

And again, it shall come to pass that on as many as ye shall baptize with water, ye shall lay your hands, and they shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, and shall be looking forth for the signs of my coming, and shall know me. (Doctrine and Covenants 39: 23.)

God shall give unto you knowledge by his Holy Spirit, yea, by the unspeakable gift of the Holy Ghost, that has not been revealed since the world was until now. (Doctrine and Covenants 121: 26.)

Wherefore, beware lest ye are deceived; and that ye may not be deceived seek ye earnestly the best gifts, always remembering for what they are given; for verily I say unto you, they are given for the benefit of those who love me and keep all my commandments, and him that seeketh so to do; that all may be benefited that seek or that ask of me, that ask and not for a sign that they may consume it upon their lusts. And again, verily I say unto you, I would that ye should always remember, and always retain in your minds what those gifts are, that are given unto the church. For all have not every gift given unto them; for there are many gifts and to every man is given a gift by the Spirit of God. To some is given one, and to some is given another, that all may be profited thereby. (Doctrine and Covenants 46: 8-12.)

Today every Latter-day Saint, subsequent to his baptism and at the time of his confirmation into the Church, is given the gift of the Holy Ghost. Not to one nor to another, but to everyone who is baptized of the water and of the Spirit, is this great, “yea, this unspeakable” gift given.

In the concluding verses of the forty-sixth section of the Doctrine and Covenants, the Lord, through His prophets, enumerates some dozen gifts of which one is given to some and another to others, but in each case the gift is bestowed through the power of the Holy Ghost whose special and divinely appointed mission

is to lead those upon whom it has been conferred into all truth. It is the Latter-day Saint's privilege, then, to operate under the greatest single refining influence in the Universe! If that Latter-day Saint will permit.

Irrefragable and increasingly abundant proof that the universe is obedient to laws of cause and effect has rendered trite the mere statement of the fact. However, it will bear iteration here in recalling to our consciousness that the greatest refining influence in this law-abiding universe must itself, perforce, operate in accordance with law. God, of whom the Holy Ghost is one, is bound to keep the law. Therefore, if the Holy Ghost is to fulfil its function for the Latter-day Saint, or, to put it differently, if the Latter-day Saint is to be inspired by the Holy Ghost, he must in turn live according to the law.

What, then, is the law? Simply and completely answered: the fulness of God's commandments. The Holy Ghost

who knoweth all things, will lead nearest to ultimate truth him who most fully keeps the law.

This year's slogan has a peculiar and profound significance for the M. I. A. worker. "Inspired by the refining influences of 'Mormonism,' we will develop the gifts within us."

Unfortunately, refinement too often means merely observance of the social amenities. The attribute is mistaken for the thing itself and attributes are sometimes easily feigned. A soft alloy may possess the satiny finish of highly tempered steel. An arch villain may be *refined*, if by refinement we mean exterior gloss—suavity, affability, courtesy. But, truly refining processes are rigorous processes and their severity is proportionate to the degree of refinement which they bring about.

IN the physical and chemical worlds, as higher degrees of refinement are attained, the refining processes become more extensive, more exact, more costly. Witness watch-spring steel. If this be true in the inorganic and lower organic worlds, how much more arduous and complex must refining processes be in the social world—the world of human beings—of all our worlds the most intricate. In it, as in others, genuinely refining influences, to be effective, demand meticulous obedience to exact formulæ and prescribed procedures, but with this difference: In the case of iron which is to become steel, the iron is powerless to set in motion the process for its refinement, even though the refining influences be close at hand, while in the case of man, although the formulæ are as exact and the procedure as difficult, he himself

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Star readers will find in this article an inspiring interpretation of this year's M. I. A. Slogan in the light of the fundamental principles of the Gospel.

can institute the process so that the refining influence, ever at hand, can function. And what are some of these refining influences?

The Scriptures are easily obtainable. They contain a fulness of the law. In civil life, our courts specifically sound the warning, "Ignorance of the law excuseth no man." Knowing the law, then, is an individual responsibility. Consistent obedience to the law demands knowledge of the law. Extensive knowledge presupposes intensive study. Is knowledge of the Scriptures, which contain eternal, that is divine, law to be gained with less expenditure of effort?

Of special import to the Latter-day Saints is the book of Doctrine and Covenants from which we have quoted. It is the immediate word of the Lord to this generation. Whatever inspiration we derive from its influence will depend upon our study of and adherence to it.

NOT inferior to the scriptures as a refining influence is the word of the Lord's present constituted authority here. The First Presidency of the Church, together with the Quorum of the Twelve, are prophets, seers and revelators and have been unanimously sustained as such—at least, for the past number of years, I have heard of no dissenting vote at any stake or general conference. But I have heard complaint and adverse criticism of our General Authorities. It might be well for the man or woman who publicly votes to sustain the constituted authority of the Church and who subsequently finds fault with or even holds up to ridicule one or more of those he has voted to sustain, to realize that such action proclaims him or her not only to be a hypocrite but a liar. Hypocrisy and lying are direct violations of the formula requisite for human refinement and the Holy Ghost cannot (not will not but cannot) function on such person's behalf.

Be it remembered, that no one makes the plea that the men called to preside over the Church are infallible. They are human. Mortality precludes infallibility. That very fact makes support of the authorities incumbent upon us. Their responsibilities are sufficiently heavy in the ordinary discharge of their duties. Their load becomes onerous indeed when they are supported by vote merely and not by deed.

What strides in the process of refinement could the Church of Jesus Christ not make if all Latter-day Saints gave loyal support and prayerful heed to the counsels of the Lord's spokesmen! Indeed, the Priesthood is of use to the Lord and of benefit to us only as we honour and magnify it, and when men complain that the presiding Priesthood is not functioning for their good, it is because they are failing to make it so function. Having voted to sustain men as prophets, seers, and revelators, we must do our part by faith, prayer, and work, to make them such.

Refining influences become inspiring by our doing. Undaunted bearing testimony of the truth in face of opposition is a refining influence of rare power. The strongest testimonies of the Gospel's truth are gained from its most vigorous defense. Fearless obedience to the word of the Lord in the face of ridicule tempers moral fiber to unbreakable hardness. In short, support of the

truth, from whatever source, intelligent and indomitable obedience to eternal law are the very fires of refinement. Inspired thereby, we will develop the gifts within us.

Wherefore, beware lest ye are deceived; and that ye may not be deceived seek ye earnestly the best gifts, always remembering for what they are given.*

Be ye not deceived!

Were I asked what one word best describes society to-day, I should reply, "Bewilderment." The world is befogged. The experience of to-day is confounding the wisdom of yesterday. The inefficacy of to-day's remedies will be discovered to-morrow. Relief is not to be found save in obedience to the law:

But woe unto him that has the law given, yea, that has all the commandments of God, like unto us, and that transgresseth them, and that wasteth the days of his probation, for awful is his state!

O that cunning plan of the evil one! O the vainness, and the frailties, and the foolishness of men! When they are learned they think they are wise, and they hearken not unto the counsel of God, for they set it aside, supposing they know of themselves, wherefore, their wisdom is foolishness and it profiteth them not. And they shall perish.†

Our immediate need is ability to see. There are gifts many, but of them all, the one most in need of development during this dark hour is the gift of discernment. The world is flying blind without instruments. National and international leaders are groping frenziedly for techniques for recovery. Staggering sums of money are being spent to save the economic structure and the whole scheme is admittedly experimental. In a fit of hysteria, one great nation is repudiating one of its ideals in the ridiculously—or should we say tragically—futile hope that the legalizing of liquor will bring about temperance and permanently increase revenue. Verily, the world is bewildered.

O the vainness of the learned men who think they are wise, yet set aside the counsel of God. Here is the word of the Lord to this people—given just one hundred years ago:

If you keep not my commandments, the love of the Father shall not continue with you, therefore you shall walk in darkness.‡

And from an ancient scripture: "But to be learned is good if they hearken unto the counsels of God."§

The writer of the Old Testament Proverbs imparts divinely profound wisdom when he writes, "Where there is no vision the people perish." And notice what he writes next, "But he that keepeth the law, happy is he."||

Without obedience to law there is no vision.

The Holy Ghost has been given to every Latter-day Saint and the obedience of that Latter-day Saint to God's law will make him subject to the Holy Spirit's refining influence. Thus inspired, the gift of discernment—the ability to see—will develop

*Doctrine and Covenants, Sec. 46: 8.

†2 Nephi 9: 27-28.

‡Doctrine and Covenants, Sec. 95: 12.)

§2 Nephi 9: 29.

||Proverbs 29: 18.

within him and he will rise to such leadership as will bring the world out of the dark chaos of ignorance and bewilderment into the bright sunlight of truth and assurance.

Let the M. I. A. worker remember that the organization's project for this year is the development of leadership. Surface refinement, the mere attributes of worth, while making for pleasing personality are not enough for genuine leadership. In addition to these and to almost inexhaustible energy and indefatigable effort, he must have vision. He must know where he is going and why.

EVERY M. I. A. leader in every department faces a challenge in his particular work. Inspired by the refining influences of "Mormonism" how are you Adult leaders presenting "Religion—A Way of Life?" You M Men leaders! With immorality rampant about us, are you definitely helping young fellows over a rough way? With crime gnawing at the very vitals of society, what are you doing with the M Men civic projects? Are your Treasures of Truth merely scrap books, you Gleaner leaders? What of permanent worth are the girls under your leadership garnering into their spiritual storehouses as they glean in the fields of biography? Having met in M. I. A. with the M Men, what are your joint accomplishments in personality improvement? The challenge is yours, too, Bee-Hive leaders and Scoutmasters, and especially yours, Community Activity leaders.

Does the philosophy, "The song of the heart is a prayer unto me," permeate your music leadership? Is study of the drama leading into the recognition of beauty and the revelation of truth? Is the work in the dancing department developing healthy admiration of the beauty of and reverence for the sanctity of the human body as well as giving pleasant diversion? Are conversation, story telling, and public address producing better mental habits and building finer characters through improvement of that Godlike gift—speech—which sets us apart from the brute creation? Are all your parties and socials good fun inspired by leadership which not only invites but evokes the presence of the Spirit of the Lord? In short, are they recreational?

Let's accept the challenge!

Inspired by the refining influences of "Mormonism," shall we so develop our gifts that they will culminate in the greatest of all gifts—eternal salvation and exaltation in our Father's Kingdom?—(Resume of address given at the M. I. A. Convention in Ogden, Utah, reprinted from the *Improvement Era*, February, 1934.)

ONE of the beautiful things to me in the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that it brings us all to a common level. It is not necessary for a man to be a president of a stake or a member of the Quorum of the Twelve, in order to attain a high place in the celestial kingdom. The humblest member of the Church, if he keeps the commandments of God, will obtain an exaltation just as much as any other men in the celestial kingdom.—ELDER GEORGE ALBERT SMITH.

 AUXILIARY GUIDE FOR APRIL

PRIESTHOOD

First Night. Opening exercises. Local Priesthood activity report. Two twelve-minute talks: First: "The Gift of the Holy Ghost." Second: "Spiritual Gifts." References will be found in the *Articles of Faith* under these headings. The Prophet Joseph Smith once made the statement that the gift of the Holy Ghost was the distinguishing feature of a Latter-day Saint community from another group of people. What is our lesson from this statement?

Second Night. Opening exercises. Local Priesthood activity report. Discuss ways and means for greater activity among all Priesthood workers. Lesson: *Vitality of Mormonism*, Chapter Twelve.

Third Night. Opening exercises. Local Priesthood activity report. What can your group of Priesthood activity workers do to reap the benefits resultant from your recent Spring Conference? Or, if your District Conference has not been held as yet, what can *this* group do to make it a bigger and better success? One twelve-minute talk: "Priesthood and Womanhood." (See *MILLENNIAL STAR* article, November 2, 1933; see also, for class discussion, *Studies in Priesthood*, pages 44 and 73.)

Fourth Night. Opening exercises. Local Priesthood activity report. Lesson: *Vitality of Mormonism*, Chapter Thirteen. Some evening, when time permits, we suggest that you review the form and procedure in administering Church ordinances. See Chapter Twelve, *Studies in Priesthood*.—G. HOMER DURHAM.

 RELIEF SOCIETY

First Week. Opening exercises. Preliminary programme. Time will be devoted during the first part of the meeting to give the sisters opportunity to bear their testimony of the Gospel in relation to their Relief work. Lesson text: *Theology*—Lesson VII: "Gifts of the Spirit." Objective: To show that for a definite purpose God has bestowed gifts upon all of us, and that in order to improve these gifts we must use them.

Second Week. Opening exercises. Preliminary programme, to be of your own choice. Work and Business. Lesson Text: Teachers' Topic, Lesson VII: "Believe in Yourself—Trust Your Fellowman—Have Faith in God." Objective: To impress upon all people that to succeed one must have confidence in self, trust in others, and faith in God.

Third Week. Opening exercises. Preliminary programme. Reading: Have some member read some passages from "Ulysses," by Alfred Tennyson; and from Keat's "Ode on a Grecian Urn." Lesson text: Literature, Lesson VII: "The Gift of the Greeks to the World." Objective: This lesson is planned to present simply, yet impressively, the ideals of beauty the Greeks created for the world.

Fourth Week. Opening exercises. Preliminary programme. Have one or two sisters give a demonstration of the use of some of the "household hints" prepared by Sister Merrill and studied during the month of March. Lesson text: Social Service, Lesson VII: "The Word of Wisdom," Centennial Tract No. 17 in back of book. Study for thirty minutes should be continued on the Spring Cleaning Programme and House Cleaning Helps. Objective: To show how the women may lead others of the Church to good health.—RINTHA PRATT DOUGLAS.

GENEALOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Second Week. Lesson 7 in the Genealogical Leaflet. Many people, realizing the duty and privilege that is theirs in seeking after their dead, are at a loss to know "how" and "where" to begin their research. Teaching the saints how to analyze their own genealogical problem is one of the functions of the Genealogical Society.

The activity tonight will include a study and practice in filling out a One Family Group Record.

The first thing that is necessary in doing research work is a strong desire on the part of the person to keep this commandment of God; then this desire must be supplemented with "work," and the way will be opened for the work to be done.

Fourth Week. Lesson 8 in the Genealogical Leaflet. Where can I begin my research for ancestral data? What step should I take first? How exact must the information be? Where was my grandfather born? Who were his parents? How can I trace back beyond my grandmother? my great-grandfather? etc. In our study of a typical research problem tonight we shall be aided in answering these questions in our own genealogical problem.

After having collected several portraits of our ancestors we shall paste these on the Portrait Pedigree Chart in the Book of Remembrance. The laboratory assignment to-night is the fourth assignment in the Book of Remembrance: Fill out a One Family Group Record.—JOHN D. RIGGS.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

SACRAMENT GEM FOR APRIL

"And he hath risen again from the dead, that he might bring all men unto him, on conditions of repentance." (Doctrine and Covenants 18:12.)

GOSPEL DOCTRINE DEPARTMENT

April 1st. Concert Recitation: (See Lesson Leaflet—Doctrine and Covenants 27:2). Special Easter Service.

April 5th. Lesson 12. "The Importance of Record Keeping." Objective: To show the essential importance of sacred history and revelation to the welfare of the Church of Christ in all ages; also to show the value of individual records in relation to all vital matters in the lives of the members of the Church.

The Lord commanded His disciples to "write the works of that people; for out of the books which shall be written shall the world be judged." Suggested questions:

1. Why is the law so emphatic on the importance of keeping records?
2. What are some of the outstanding dates in the life of each Church member which should be recorded?
3. Of what value is our standing in the Church?
4. What dire consequences follow the loss of Church membership?

April 15th. Lesson 13. "The Office and Calling of Emma Smith." Objective: To show the importance of the calling to Emma Smith to preside over the women of the Church as an "elect lady," to expound doctrine among them, and also to select hymns for the Church; and the importance of song in the worship of the Lord.

(Continued on page 170)

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1934

EDITORIAL

ANNIVERSARY OF THE RELIEF SOCIETY

MARCH 17th will be the ninety-second anniversary of the organization of the Relief Society of the Church. This organization was effected by the Prophet Joseph Smith, himself, in Nauvoo, Illinois, March 17, 1842. It is now customary for Relief Society branches everywhere in the Church to have an annual celebration of this event, which takes place on or near the anniversary. We hope that the Relief Societies on this side of the Atlantic will all adopt the same custom, most of them now doing so. These events may be made most interesting and profitable.

The Prophet Joseph Smith was assisted in the organization by Elders John Taylor and Willard Richards, members of the Council of Twelve Apostles. There were eighteen sisters present at this meeting, and the organization was completed by selecting and setting apart a full set of officers—a presidency of three members, a secretary, an assistant secretary, and a treasurer. Then the Prophet proceeded to instruct the meeting in the purposes of the organization and the duties of its members. Thus was launched the first and oldest auxiliary organization in the Church, the only one organized by the Prophet himself. All the others were formed in later years after the headquarters of the Church were established in Salt Lake City.

Of special interest are the instructions given by the Prophet and other leaders in the beginning of the Society. From a Historical Sketch written by President Amy Brown Lyman in 1931, we take the following, which states the aims and objects of the Society: "To manifest benevolence irrespective of creed or nationality; to care for the poor, the sick and the unfortunate; to minister where death reigns; to assist in correcting the morals and strengthening the virtues of community life; to raise human life to its highest level; to elevate and enlarge the scope of women's activities and conditions; to foster love for religion, education, culture and refinement; to develop faith; to save souls; to study and teach the Gospel."

This is a programme that presents a challenge worthy of the highest aspirations for service and personal development of any group of women, however able and learned the members thereof may be. No program could be better. And since a tree is judged by its fruits, no existing organization among women anywhere in the world outranks the Relief Society in the qualities that

make for Godliness. This organization believes that "inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matt. 25: 40.) In other words, the Relief Society believes that organizations, like individuals, will be judged by their fruits, and that the best way to serve God is to serve our fellowmen. From a small beginning, with eighteen members, the Society has steadily grown until now there is a membership of 70,000 women distributed among about 2,000 organized units. It is not the largest women's organization in the world, but there is none greater, judged by the qualities that make greatness. Furthermore, the Relief Society is now affiliated with the great national and international councils of women. Hence its influence is world-wide.

The Relief Society is, and has always been, an example to all other organizations in the Church—either male or female—in the sincerity, devotion, and faithfulness of its members as well as in the quality of its service. No aims can be higher, no efforts more earnest, no accomplishments more nearly perfect, than those of this society. This is written in the light of some knowledge of how the organization functions in general. If in any particular case the standards of the Society are not completely upheld, the failure must be due to local conditions. Possibly the officers and members have not yet caught a vision of the glories of their possibilities. Should this unhappily be the case, then repentance and prayer are in order. Everyone associated with the organization should feel a personal obligation to do all in her power to make it triumphant.

If the local Relief Society organization is functioning well, it is one of the best proselyting agencies in the branch. And yet preaching, as the term is ordinarily understood, is not its direct aim. It works on the principle of "let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5: 16). But the indirect way is often the best way. It is one of the most effective proselyting ways, as experience abundantly testifies. We hope the Relief Societies in the missions will keep in mind their great possibilities and fail not to achieve them. The organizations will then be as ministering angels bringing comfort, joy, hope, and blessings to our Father's children.—M.

RELIEF SOCIETY SUNDAY

THOSE of you who have been watching district conference dates have observed that Sunday, March 18th, there will be no District conference held. This Sunday has been set apart in order that the Relief Societies may commemorate the 92nd anniversary of this most wonderful organization.

The British Mission Relief Society Board has prepared a most excellent programme to be given on that day. I suggest therefore

that the district presidents, branch presidents, and all auxiliary organizations and friends join with our sisters and make these 70 Relief Society organizations in the British Mission ring with praises.

Make March 18th, a day never to be forgotten. Every Latter-day Saint woman should be proud to be a member of this now internationally known charitable organization. Its work is known far and wide. These sisters visit the sick, assist the needy, and comfort the mourner. They are untiring in their efforts for good. They not only look after the physical needs of their associates, but they seek intellectual accomplishments by searching good books and familiarizing themselves with current events.

Let Latter-day Saints, one and all, join the sisters on March 18th, and show to them that we appreciate their wonderful helpfulness in every Branch of the Church.—JAMES H. DOUGLAS.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

(Concluded from page 167)

Some characteristics of a "Mormon" hymn are these: It expresses praise to God; it increases devotion and reverence; it may be sung or recited; it may be a prayer; it may contain doctrine as taught by the Latter-day Saints; it expresses optimism; it has a note of love for home, state and nation; it is written in simple English which makes it easily understood. Suggested questions:

1. What was the favored calling of Emma Smith? Was it an adequate reward that was promised her if she remained faithful?
2. What is it the rightful place of music and singing in our worshipping assemblies?
3. Why do false teachings and untruthful sentiments embedded in songs render otherwise beautiful hymns inappropriate in our services?

April 22nd. Lesson 14. "The Sacrament." Objective: To show that "it mattereth not what ye shall eat or drink," if it is done with an eye single to the glory of God; also, to show that there is in the partaking of the Sacrament a sacred covenant to be renewed each week by each member of the Church, with a blessing and promise that if the covenant is kept we shall have the guidance of the Spirit of the Lord. Suggested questions:

1. What was the purpose and symbolism of the Passover?
2. Why was it commemorated annually in Israel with such impressive ceremonies?
3. Why should saints regularly partake of the Sacrament?
4. What obligation does the covenant of partaking of the Sacrament place upon us?
5. Why is the Sacrament meeting our most important Church service?

April 29th. Open Sunday. This day should be used to make up for any lessons missed up to date.

CHURCH HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Concert Recitation

"Therefore, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people,

yea, a marvellous work and a wonder, for the wisdom of their wise and learned shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent shall be hid." (2 Nephi 27: 26.)

April 1st. Special Easter Programme.

April 8th. Lesson 12. "The Sacred Plates Given to Joseph." Objective: To show that when man does his full part, the Lord comes to his aid, fulfilling the promises of scripture.

April 15th. Lesson 13. "The Plates are Protected." Objective: To show that man's ways are not God's ways.

April 22nd. Lesson 14. "Days of Translation." Objective: Those who persistently struggle forward doing God's commands, even though grave mistakes are made, will eventually accomplish their missions successfully.

April 29th. Lesson 15. "The Plates Finished." Objective: To show that even though Joseph Smith was ordained a Prophet and Seer, yet without God's aid he would have failed.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT (Sunday School Class)

Concert Recitation for April

"This poor widow hath cast more in than all they which have cast into the treasury." (See Luke 21: 3, 4.)

April 1st. Lesson 89. "The Awakening of Jairus' Daughter." Objective: "Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." Today is Easter. This lesson for the children could be enriched by drawing analogies in nature to compare with the "long sleep" and the "final awakening." Texts: Mark 5: 21-44; Matt. 9: 18-26; Luke 8: 40-56.

April 8th. Lesson 90. "The Raising of Lazarns." Objective: "Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." (John 11: 1-45.)

April 15th. Lesson 91. "The Widow's Mite." Objective: It is not the amount of the gift but the spirit in which it is given that counts with our Heavenly Father. Texts: Matt. 12: 41-44; Luke 21: 1-4; Lesson Leaflet.

April 22nd. Lesson 92. "The Sermon on the Mount." Objective: "He that liveth and believeth in me shall never die." Texts: Matt. 5; Lesson Leaflet.

April 29th. Open Sunday. In reviewing the lessons of the month let the class select and dramatize in simple manner one of the lessons.—*The Instructor.*

Sunday School Teachers! Have you ever tried to vary your method of presenting the lesson and to supplement the lesson material with ideas of your own? Consider this suggestion for the month of April: Have some member give a prepared address to the class on some subject relative to the lesson, after which the members of the class be permitted to "quizz" him or her on the remarks made. This will lead to an informal discussion which the teacher must be thoroughly prepared to guide to relevant material.

Primary and Kindergarten teachers! A sand table, so inexpensive and so easily made, would be very helpful in teaching young children. Simple representations of the lessons would stimulate interest of the children and increase their learning. Be sure that you make the big points of the lesson concrete. Bring them down to the lives of the children through illustrations. Use pictures, maps, charts, blackboards, and sometimes have the children dramatize the lesson by acting the part of the characters studied. A great deal of learning is gained through the eye. Use this "visual" method of teaching!

It is suggested that the two-and-one-half minute talks be based upon the following topics: "Springtime and the Resurrection"; and "How I can help to Improve my Sunday School." Superintendents, be sure that these assignments are made sufficiently in advance to insure a thorough preparation.

For singing practice during the month of April the following songs are

suggested: "Tenderly Wipe the Bitter Tear," page 340; and "An Angel from on High," page 420 in the *Latter-day Saint Hymns*. Chorister, This song is usually sung too slowly! See that the proper tempo is maintained!—JOHN D. RIGGS.

MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

SUNDAY EVENING JOINT PROGRAMME FOR APRIL

Opening hymn: "O Jesus The Giver Of All We Enjoy."

Prayer: Member of the Y. M. M. I. A. Presidency.

Duet: "Jesus Lover of My Soul."

Slogan Talk: "Christ as the Greatest Refining Influence of 'Mormonism.'"

Repetition of the Slogan: The congregation.

Solo: "There is a Green Hill Far Away."

Ten-minute Talk: "The Crucifixion of the Saviour." (Refer to the Four Gospels, *Jesus the Christ*, pp. 654-662, *Articles of Faith*, pp. 77-81.)

Hymn: "Lo the Mighty God Appareth."

Address: "Christ the First Fruits of the Resurrection."

Closing Hymn: "Redeemer of Israel."

Benediction: Member of the Y. L. M. I. A. Presidency.

WEEKLY PROGRAMME

First Night. Opening exercises. Slogan talk: "Development of our gifts so that greater refining influences may be utilized through owning our own Church halls." Separate for regular monthly departmental programmes. Note that all programmes should be planned in *advance* at the Officers' and Teachers' meetings.

ADULTS: Talk: "Whither Britain" (for information see wireless talks by H. G. Wells and G. B. Shaw, published in the *Listener*.) Follow this talk with an open discussion; use the topics of the day, keeping in mind the Adult project for this year: "We will strive to raise the cultural tone of our community social life and recreational activity."

M MEN-GLEANER JOINT PROGRAMME: M Men and Gleaner officers may plan for this evening. We suggest:

(1) Take up any lessons which have been missed because of other activities.

(2) M Men and Gleaner Girls' Banquet.

(3) An evening of debate, based on the Personality lessons.

BEE HIVES: Follow the Guides.

ACTIVITY PERIOD: May be used for the Departmental Project work on the first night of the month.

Second Night. Opening exercises. Slogan talk: "Good Drama—How it has refined my life." Class and activity periods (45 minutes each) according to programme.

ADULTS: Chapter sixteen: "The Fatherhood of God."

M MEN: Chapter fifteen: "The Path For Two." M Men should realize that marriage is more than a mere civil contract. It is an eternal union with an eternal purpose. Discuss, carefully and thoughtfully.

GLEANERS: Page twenty-six: "Building a Life—Prayer."

BEE-HIVES: Planned by Bee-Keeper.

ACTIVITY PERIOD: Under direction of the Drama Director. Suggest that a short instruction be given about an important point in the actor's craft, e.g., "What the hands should be doing on the stage." Study your Drama manual.

Third Night. Opening exercises. Feature a selection by your musical group that is working with the Branch Achievement Programme. Follow with a Retold Story by a Bee-Hive girl. Separate for class and

activity work promptly so that each section of the work will be given its proper quota of time.

ADULTS : Chapter seventeen : "A New Way of Finding Truth."

M MEN : By now you have studied the pages of *Youth and Life* and the M Men Programme and Guide in the back of the book. Study the pages devoted to Master M Men work with a view to understanding the Church-wide M Men Organization, and our new British Mission M Men Organization that is about to be established. Plan for the future now by discussing what groups and sections would be suited to your particular group. Blaze the trail for next year's mission-wide M Men organization. You are pioneers.

GLEANERS : Page twenty-seven—Scripture reading.

BEE-HIVES : Follow the Guides.

ACTIVITY PERIOD : Drama.

Fourth Night. Opening exercises. Slogan talk : "Love of Fellowman, a refining influence of 'Mormonism.'"

ADULTS : Chapter eighteen : "Self-Determination, Individual and Political."

M MEN : Chapter seventeen : "The Demands of Citizenship." When studying this lesson remember the self-governing features of the M Men. What are the demands of citizenship in an M Men organization ?

GLEANERS : Page twenty-eight : Treasures of Truth projects.

BEE-HIVES : Planned by the girls.

ACTIVITY PERIOD : Drama.

April is the month of showers. Let our showers be those of blessings, of work done, and plans for the future.—BRITISH MISSION Y. M. M. I. A. AND Y. L. M. I. A. BOARDS—G. HOMER DURHAM.

BEE-HIVE DEPARTMENT

Bee-Keepers, on you depends the success of your swarms. Are you enthusiastic? If not, the girls you are working with will not be either. Understand and get the spirit of Bee-Hive work. Then you will inspire your girls to work ever harder and harder. Let the example do your part and the girls will do theirs. Take a personal interest in each girl, and see that she is filling cells in each field.

It is desired that all swarms will work so that they will have finished the rank they are working on by next July, when a programme for Swarm Day will be printed in the *Star*. If the girls of a swarm gain their ranks before that day they should not commence on the next rank, but work on Bee Lines and Merit Badges until after Swarm Day, that all swarms may be working in harmony.—CATHERINE L. M. HORNER.

PRIMARY ASSOCIATION

SEGOLIA BOOK

THE Seagull Motto is "Serve Gladly." Is there anything that brings more joy to our hearts than service to others ?

At this time we would like to urge you to help the Seagull Girls of your branch to obtain a Segolia Book. In this book she may record the merits, or flight feathers, that have been awarded to her in her various fields of activity ; her name, date of birth, name of Advisor, name of the branch. What the year's work has meant to her ; poems and songs that have been learned during the year should also be recorded. It contains the "Dance of the Seagulls and Crickets," which the girls will enjoy learning.

The size of the book is eleven inches in length and seven inches in width. The cover is very attractive, giving a picture taken from the Seagull Monument, of the seagulls devouring the crickets. Also the book contains the Seagull Girls' Motto,

These books may be obtained at the Mission Office for eightpence each. Every Seagull Girl will be delighted in having one for her very own.

As the Seagull, sent in answer to the prayer of the "Mormon" Pioneers, soared heavenward to begin its noble flight of service, so should the Seagull Girls of the British Mission gladly prepare themselves for greater service.

Seagull Girls! The Mission Board is anxious to help you. May we be of service to you? Write us about your problems.—MILDRED L. POOLE.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT CONFERENCE

THE Sheffield District Spring Conference was held in the Latter-day Saints' Chapel, Sheffield, February 25th. The theme of the conference centered around "The Value and Purpose of Restored Truth and Light," and this theme was well developed in each of the inspiring services of the day.

President James H. Douglas and Sister Rintha Pratt Douglas were the presiding officials present, and under their direction many conditions and problems confronting the Priesthood and Relief Society were discussed during the morning session. The afternoon session was devoted entirely to auxiliary work. After the District business had been completed, Primary children presented a short dialogue which was prepared and directed by Sister Winnie Ludlam, the District Supervisor for Primaries. Gleaner Girls from the Sheffield Branch presented a dialogue which was prepared by Brother James R. Bargh for the purpose of emphasizing the theme of the conference.

The Genealogical Pageant sent out by the Mission Office was a special feature of the afternoon session. The information and encouragement from this production was of great worth to all who were interested in genealogical work. Sister Dorothy M. Bailey directed this splendid presentation.

In the evening session, District President Leon Frelmer spoke briefly on how the Restoration of this Gospel of Truth has made the meaning of life plain and simple, and how it gives assurance of lasting joy to all who will but make it a part of their life.

Sister Douglas told of how her love for the people in England has grown, and how her love for Truth has made it easy for her to sacrifice for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. She also told of how the Book of Mormon is being supported by recent findings in America. In closing, she admonished all truth-seekers to weigh "Mormonism" carefully, and entreated the saints to give continued adherence to truths already accepted.

President Douglas delivered a very inspiring talk on the value of Truth, how it has made the world smaller in many ways, and how it would continue to fill the earth. He told of the first appearance of the Gospel in this country and extolled the character of those courageous men who have been leading figures in the history of the Church; and how they have sacrificed for the Truth. In closing, he emphasized the responsibility that rested upon the members to make use of the opportunities the Lord is making for Truth to be taught to the nations.

During the afternoon and evening sessions musical numbers were rendered by Elder John D. Riggs, Sister Rita Hardy, Mrs. Rebecca Hardy and Sister Ethel Chapman.

The District elders in attendance were President Leon Frehner, Elders Emerson J. Lindsay, Herbert T. Edgar and William M. Harvey. Visiting Elders were John D. Riggs from the British Mission Office, Gaskell A. Romney from the Newcastle District, and Drayton B. Nuttall from the Hull District. Saints from Birkenhead, Mansfield, Nottingham, Eastwood and Derby were also in attendance at most of the meetings.

EMERSON J. LINDSAY, Clerk of Conference.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Assignment—Elder Keith L. Freeman, of Brigham City, Utah, who arrived in London, January 24th, has been assigned to labour in the London District.

Release—Elder Elmer R. Longson was honourably released from his missionary labours on February 28th, and sailed for America aboard the s.s. *Washington* on March 1st. Elder Longson laboured in the Sheffield and London Districts. A threatening illness necessitated his early release.

Special Work—Sister Helen Ann Waspe, President of the British Mission Y.L.M.I.A., has been temporarily transferred from the European Mission Office to the Liverpool District where, for the next few weeks, she will do special field work in the interest of auxiliary organizations.

Doings in the Districts: Birmingham—Forty Primary children, only two of whom were members of the Church, were the guests of the Dudley Port Branch, February 3rd, at an evening entertainment. The programme consisted of two short plays: one, a health play outlined in the Primary Lessons, and the other "Red Riding Hood." Delicious refreshments completed the evening's activities. Sister Hettie Harper and Brother Hancock planned and directed the evening's activities.

The Handsworth Branch Primary social was held on February 10th. Games and refreshments kept the youngsters occupied until the early evening, when they went to their homes, and the older members of the branch were left to enjoy themselves in social activities. Sister Winnifred E. Makin and Brother

Charles Collins, with the help of Brother Bernard Green, planned and directed the affair.

Bee-Hive girls of the Handsworth Branch welcomed Sister Dora Green, Branch Bee Keeper, who returned to her duties after an illness of three weeks, with a social evening, February 12th. Many friends were present to enjoy their associations together.

The Wolverhampton Branch discussed "The 'Mormon's' Belief" at its semi-annual branch conference held February 18th. Both sessions were well attended, there being twenty-three investigators at the evening session. Representatives of the *Express and Star* reported the conference proceedings, which were given a prominent place in the evening edition of the following day.

Nottingham—At a baptismal service held Saturday, January 13th, at the Arnold Baths, Dorothy Blythe, Gladys Elizabeth Price, Violet Price and James Bettridge were baptized by Elder Charles J. Solomon; Alice Price, Rose Marjorie Price, Lawrence Robinson and Samuel William Brewin were baptized by Elder Kenneth F. Cropper. Confirmation followed at an assembly in the Nottingham hall.

The Hucknall Branch held a "Faith Supper" on February 24th in honour of the past and future branch presidency. Approximately forty members and their children were in attendance. The proceeds of the evening went to the Sunday School fund.

Ulster—Under the direction of President William R. Houston, a baptismal service was held at the Belfast Turkish Baths on February

25th, at which Annie Louise Collins, William Thomas Collins, McClure, William Scott and Thomas Keys were baptized. President Houston performed the baptisms. The candidates were confirmed by the travelling elders and by local Elder Joseph Ditty, on the following day.

Newcastle—Sunderland, Gateshead, Hexham and South Shields, the northern branches of the Newcastle District, met February 28th in the prettily decorated Stevenson's Memorial Hall at South Shields to hold their annual Gold and Green Ball. Elder A. H. Boyce was in charge of the general arrangements; Brother Albert Hurrell headed the committee on decorations. Refreshments were attractively arranged in buffet style under the supervision of Sister Mary E. Foster. President Alexander Morris of Hexham Branch acted as Master of Ceremonies. Attendance totalled 110.

A feature of the evening was the ceremony of crowning the Queen of the Gold and Green Ball. Chosen as queen was Sister Ruth Bryan of the Gateshead Branch. Surrounded by seven lovely attendants, she was crowned, after fitting cere-

monies, by Elder G. Homer Durham, President of the Y. M. M. I. A. of the British Mission.

Norwich—The North Walsham Branch held its first conference on February 25th, at the home of Brother and Sister Loads. "Salvation for both the Living and the Dead" was the day's theme. Services were under the direction of Branch President Alfred F. Woodhouse.

Saints in Lowestoft honoured President Vern R. Butcher at a farewell social held in the new recreational hall on February 22nd. To him, as a token of their love and esteem, was presented an initialed leather wallet. Games and refreshments concluded the evening's activities.

"The Gospel as a Means of Self-development" was the subject of the Lowestoft Branch conference held February 25th. Local members contributed largely to the success of the day's sessions, delivering addresses, and planning coming activities. A promising aspect of the work in Lowestoft is that fully half of those who attend the Gospel meetings are investigators.

DEATHS

MILLS—Sister Frances Mills, aged 60, died at her home in Eastwood on January 7th. Her life has been one of service and devotion to the Church. Funeral services were under the direction of President Heber I. Boden, and conducted by Elder William M. Harvey. Elder Charles J. Solomon dedicated the grave.

HARDINGHAM—Joy Doreen Hardingham, six-year-old daughter of Brother Herbert James Hardingham and Sister May Hardingham of the Portsmouth Branch died February 23rd. Funeral services were conducted on February 27th by Elder Henry R. Pearson. President Alma J. Larkin dedicated the grave.

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